GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:174
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2016
Summer Forecast
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Meteorological Department for the first time proposes to issue a summer forecast for the months of April, May and June;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any mechanism in the Ministry for coordination with the other Ministries/Departments of the Union Government in the event of a natural calamity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to forecast the natural calamities in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY (a) to (d) TO STARRED QUESTION NO. *174 REGARDING "SUMMER FORECAST" TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 09, 2016

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) Earth System Science Organisation-India Meteorological Department (ESSO-IMD) will come out, for the first time, with a summer advisory / summer temperature outlook this year. The temperature outlook valid for the period April to June, 2016 will be issued by end of March. In addition, an extended range forecast (up to 15-days) of summer temperatures with a 5-day update will be issued.

(c) Yes Madam. Mechanism is in place for coordination with various ministries like Agriculture, Home Affairs, Power, Railways, Water Resources, Surface Transport, Health, Sports, Tourism, Coal & Mines and others.

ESSO-IMD and ESSO-National Centre of Seismology (NCS) has existing mechanism to coordinate with various state authorities. As such ESSO-IMD provide inputs to State Crop Weather Watch Group, State Disaster Management Authorities, Relief Commissioners. During cyclones a coordination mechanism with district authorities has also been established. Round the clock weather surveillance and forecasting system is operational at ESSO-IMD for continuous monitoring, detection and warning of Cyclones; river basin scale meteorological support (monitoring and warning) for river flood warning system and other severe weather systems. Operational forewarning systems are already in place by the Central Water Commission (CWC) of the Ministry of the Water Resources for river basin scale flood. Fully organized protocol exists between ESSO-IMD, CWC and with the various designated disaster management

authorities at centre and state levels for dissemination of weather forecast warning alerts. Such existing dissemination protocol is always duly complied with.

(d) ESSO-IMD is responsible for monitoring, detection and forecasting of weather including severe weather events such as cyclones, heavy rainfall, extreme temperature etc. It provides forecast of these events at national, regional and state levels through its tree tier structure. In order to provide early warning of severe weather events, ESSO-IMD has setup a network of state meteorological centres to have better coordination with a state and other agencies.
ESSO - NCS is monitoring earthquake activity in and around the county round the clock through its national seismological network. There is no proven scientific technique worldwide exists so far to predict/forecast the occurrence of earthquakes with reasonable degree of accuracy in space, time and magnitude.

In order to meet specific requirements of flood forecasting which is provided by the CWC, ESSO-IMD operates Flood Meteorological Offices (FMOs) at ten locations viz., Agra, Ahmedabad, Asansol, Bhubaneshwar, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jalpaiguri, Lucknow, New Delhi and Patna. During the flood season, FMOs provide valuable meteorological support to the CWC for issuing flood warnings in respect of the 43 rivers of India: i)Agra -Lower Yamuna and Betwa; ii)Ahmedabad -Narmada, Tapi, Mahi, Sabarmati,Banas and Deman Ganga; iii)Asansol -Ajay, Mayurakshi and Kangsabati; iv)Bhubaneshwar -Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baiterini, Bruhaba -lang, Subernarekha, Rushkulya and Vansdhara; v)Guwahati -Brahmaputra and Barak; vi)Hyderabad - Godawari and Krishna; vii)Jalpaiguri −Teesta;viii)Lucknow -Ganga, Ramganga, Gomti, Sai, Rapti Ghagra and Samda;ix)New Delhi -Upper Yamuna, Lower Yamuna, Sahibi; x)Patna -Kosi, Mahananda, Baghmati, Kamla, Gandak, Buri Gandak, North Koel,Kanhar, PunPun and Upper Sone.

CWC is working in close association with IMD and State Governments for timely flood forecast whenever the river water level rises above warning level. To meet the requirement of State Governments, ESSO-IMD Officers invariably attend all the meeting called by the State Governments for reviewing the preparedness on floods by various agencies.